

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to appropriate for and expedite funding of state and local homeland defense activities; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-122. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Montana relative to appropriating just compensation to the State of Montana for the Impact of Federal Land Ownership on the State's Ability to Fund Public Education; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

Whereas, for many years western states have grappled with the challenge of providing the best education for their citizens; and

Whereas, western states face unique challenges in achieving this goal; and

Whereas, from 1979 to 1998, the percentage change in expenditures per pupil in 13 western states was 28% compared to 57% in the remaining states; and

Whereas, in 2002 and 2001, the pupil-to-teacher ratio in 13 western states averaged 17.9 to 1 compared with 14.8 to 1 in the remaining states; and

Whereas, the conditions in western states are exacerbated by projections that enrollment will increase by an average of 7.1% compared to an average decrease of 2.6% in the rest of the nation; and

Whereas, despite the wide disparities in expenditures per pupil-to-teacher ratio, western states tax at a comparable rate and allocate as much of their budgets to public education as the rest of the nation; and

Whereas, the ability of western states to fund education is directly related to federal ownership of state lands; and

Whereas, the federal government owns an average of 51.9% of the land in 13 western states compared to 4.1% in the remaining states; and

Whereas, the enabling acts of most western states promise that 5% of the proceeds from the sale of federal lands will go to the states for public education; and

Whereas, a federal policy change in 1977 ended these sales, resulting in an estimated \$14 billion in lost public education funding for western states; and

Whereas, the ability of western states to fund public education is further impacted by the fact that state and local property taxes, which public education heavily relies upon to fund education, cannot be assessed on federal lands; and

Whereas, the estimated annual impact of this property tax prohibition on western states is over \$4 billion; and

Whereas, the federal government shares only half of its royalty revenue with the states; and

Whereas, royalties are further reduced because federal lands are less likely to be developed, and federal laws often place stipulations on the use of state royalty payments; and

Whereas, the estimated annual impact of royalty payment policies on western states is over \$1.86 billion; and

Whereas, much of the land that the federal government transferred to states upon statehood as a trust for public education is difficult to administer and to make productive because it is surrounded by federal land; and

Whereas, federal land ownership greatly hinders the ability of western states to fund public education; and

Whereas, the federal government should compensate western states for the significant impact federal land ownership has on the ability of western states to educate their citizens; and

Whereas, just compensation will allow western states to be on equal footing with the rest of the nation in their efforts to provide education for their citizens: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana, That the Montana Legislature strongly urge the United States Congress to appropriate just compensation to the State of Montana for the impact of federal land ownership on the State's ability to fund public education; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the Montana Congressional Delegation.

POM-123. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington relative to the Bonneville Power Administration rate increases; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4021

Whereas, the State of Washington's economy is constructed on affordable and reliable electricity; and

Whereas, energy prices in the Northwest are threatening businesses and industries, including aluminum companies; and

Whereas, the Bonneville Power Administration is proposing yet another rate increase to go into effect on October 1, 2003; and

Whereas, the proposed increase is 15% more than the current rates, which are already extremely high due to the more than 50% increase that has already occurred in the last couple of years; and

Whereas, this increase will cost the state's economy one billion dollars over the next three years; and

Whereas, many industries moved to Washington to take advantage of low-cost hydroelectric power. They are now paying more for power in Washington than in most of their other locations in the nation; and

Whereas, without affordable energy for these industries (aluminum, pulp and paper, aerospace, agriculture, etc.), thousands of family-wage jobs will be lost; and

Whereas, many of these jobs are in rural and economically challenged areas. These industries are at the core of many Northwest communities and provide the foundation for numerous secondary employment opportunities and also provide substantial tax revenues; and

Whereas, the proposed rate increase will do more than jeopardize high paying jobs. The nation is suffering a severe recession and the Pacific Northwest is already the hardest hit region in the country; and

Whereas, any increase in Bonneville Power Administration rates will only slow or prevent economic recovery as well as exacerbate the state's budget crisis; and

Whereas, the Bonneville Power Administration has the tools available to meet all of its legal obligations, including protecting fish and wildlife, without raising rates; and

Whereas, as a result of its \$500 million prepayments to Treasury to avoid a rate increase, the Bonneville Power Administration can cut costs (not just slow its rate of growth) and utilize its newly acquired additional borrowing authority and the flexibility it has garnered; and

Whereas, this region simply cannot support an additional billion dollar hit to its economy over the next three years: Now

therefore, your Memorialists respectfully communicate their request for the Bonneville Power Administration to refrain from adopting rate increases at this time, unless absolutely necessary to preserve its bond rating, and to use other tools at its disposal to manage costs until economic recovery is in sight; and be it

Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 1076. A bill to authorize construction of an education center at or near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. 1077. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in southeastern Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 1078. A bill to provide for military charters between military installations and local school districts, to provide credit enhancement initiatives to promote military charter school facility acquisition, construction, and renovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SANTORUM, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. FRIST, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 1079. A bill to extend the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2002; read the first time.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 1080. A bill to make amendments to certain antitrust penalties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DOMENICI:

S. 1081. A bill to amend section 504(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to eliminate the 2-year wait out period for grant recipients; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. CAMPBELL):

S. 1082. A bill to provide support for democracy in Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FITZGERALD (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 145. A resolution designating June 2003, as "National Safety Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. Con. Res. 45. A concurrent resolution expressing appreciation to the Government of Kuwait for the medical assistance it provided to Ali Ismaeel Abbas and other children of Iraq and for the additional humanitarian aid provided by the Government and